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June 1, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

FILED/ACCEPTED

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Martin:

The Nebraska Telecommunications Association (NTA) applauds the Federal-State Joint Board recommendation to limit payments to wireless carriers at the 2006 levels. Nebraska's telecommunications companies strongly urge the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) to act quickly to support the Federal-State Joint Board recommendation.

The Joint Board's recent decision to impose an interim cap on the competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (CETC) fund recognizes the source of growth in the USF. Recent growth in the universal service fund can be attributed to unchecked growth in the amount of support for wireless providers. The FCC's own data indicates that CETC Universal Service Fund (USF) support payments have been growing at a rate of 101% per year since 2002. Clearly this is an unsustainable growth rate.

The problems that the universal service program faces are significant and the Joint Board recommendation should be quickly adopted. It makes sense to balance the need for service in rural areas with the reality of restraining unchecked growth in the fund. The data provided by the FCC shows that support for high-cost incumbent local exchange carriers has been flat or declining in recent years. Local exchange carriers have already been capped on their USF distributions. However competitive carriers are not similarly limited. It is clear that the growth in payments is due to the fund paying the competitive carriers and not the local land-line phone companies for whom the fund was originally intended to aid.

On behalf of Nebraska's telecommunications providers and our customers, we ask you to quickly decide to support of the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Randy Sandman

Randy Sandman
President
Diller Telephone Company
Diller, Nebraska

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